IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A process for the surface treatment of a threaded joint for steel pipes comprising a pin and a box each having a contact surface including a threaded portion and an unthreaded metal contact portion,

characterized in that the process comprises the steps:

roughening a surface of the at least one of the pin and the box;

applying a coating fluid containing a resin and a lubricating powder in a solvent to the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box, the lubricating powder being one or more substances selected from molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, graphite, boron nitride, and polytetrafluoroethylene, and

drying the applied coating by multistage heating which includes at least first stage heating in the temperature range of from 70°C to 140°C for twenty minutes or more and second stage heating in the range of from higher than 150°C to 380°C to form a solid lubricant coating on the contact surface.

2. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 1, wherein the process further includes, prior to the coating application step, a step of heating the contact surface to be coated to a temperature of from 50°C to 200°C.

3. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 1, wherein the solid lubricant coating which is formed has a hardness of 70 – 140 on the Rockwell M scale.

4. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 1, wherein the solid lubricant coating formed has an adhesive strength of at least 500 N/m as determined by the SAICAS (Surface And Interfacial Cutting Analysis System) method.

5. canceled

6. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 1, wherein the contact surface to which the coating fluid is applied has a surface roughness of 5 – 40 μm Rmax.

7. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 1, wherein the contact surface to which the coating fluid is applied has a porous coating layer formed by pretreatment.

8 – 17. canceled.

18. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the solid lubricant coating which is formed has a hardness of 70 – 140 on the Rockwell M scale.

19. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the solid lubricant coating formed has an adhesive strength of at least 500 N/m as determined by the SAICAS (Surface And Interfacial Cutting Analysis System) method.

20. canceled.

21. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the contact surface to which the coating fluid is applied has a surface roughness of 5 – 40 μm Rmax.

22. (previously presented) A process as set forth in claim 2, wherein the contact surface to which the coating fluid is applied has a porous coating layer formed by pretreatment.

23. (previously presented) The process as set forth in claim 1, wherein the resin is one of an epoxy resin, polyimide resin, polycarbodiimide resin, polyethersulfone resin, polyetherketone resin, phenolic resin, furan resin, urea resin, acrylic resin, polyamideimide resin, polyethylene resin, silicone resin, and polystyrene resin.

24. (new) A process as set forth in claim 1, wherein the lubricating powder is one of molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide and graphite.

25. (new) A process as set forth in claim 1, wherein the resin is one of epoxy resins, phenolic resins and polyamideimide resins.

26. (new) A process as set forth in claim 24, wherein the resin is one of epoxy resins, phenolic resins and polyamideimide resins.